



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

NEWS RELEASE

## Montana/Dakotas State Office

For Immediate Release – October 17, 2016  
Contact: Al Nash, 406-896-5290, [al\\_nash@blm.gov](mailto:al_nash@blm.gov)

### **BLM seeks public comment on state indemnity selection project**

(BILLINGS, Mont.) – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input on a proposal to transfer certain lands to the State of Montana to satisfy the obligation made by Congress to the State of Montana under its Enabling Act of 1889. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) filed a State Indemnity Selection application with BLM in December 2015. Lands identified in the State's application total approximately 16,000 acres located in Chouteau, Custer, Fallon, Hill, Prairie, Richland, and Yellowstone counties. It is not expected that the total acreage will be needed in order to fulfill the obligation to the State of Montana and complete the project. The lands are administered by the BLM's Billings, Havre, and Miles City Field Offices.

Open house meetings to share information with the public will be hosted by the BLM and the DNRC at the following locations:

November 9, 2016, 5-7 p.m.  
BLM Miles City Field Office  
Main Conference Room  
111 Garryowen Road  
Miles City, Montana 59301

November 10, 2016, 5-7 p.m.  
BLM Billings Field Office  
Main Conference Room  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101

November 16, 2016, 4-6 p.m.  
BLM Havre Field Office  
Main Conference Room  
3990 Highway 2 West  
Havre, Montana 59501

You do not need to attend a meeting in order to comment. Written comments should be submitted to the Montana State Office, Branch of Realty, Lands and Renewable Energy, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101 on or before December 16, 2016.

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**BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office • 5001 Southgate Drive • Billings, MT 59101 • [www.blm.gov/mt](http://www.blm.gov/mt)**

*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land for the American people, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.*

If you do not want your personal contact information to be viewed by the public, then do not include it directly in your comment. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so. Therefore, do not include information you want to remain private.

Background information regarding the State Indemnity Selection application and project can be found on the web at <http://www.blm.gov/mt> under the link “Montana Indemnity Selection”. For more information, contact Jim Ledger, Realty Specialist, at (406) 329-3733 or Chris Pileski, DNRC Eastern Area Manager, at (406) 232-2034.

– BLM –

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